

Qaeda. And so at this time, I think that this amendment would disrupt sensitive diplomatic issues that are going on. I urge my colleagues to vote against the Royce amendment.

Madam Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Let me respond that, first of all, I have a great deal of respect for Chairman PAYNE. We have worked together for years on Africa issues. We worked together on Darfur, Sudan. But this is the very issue of why we disagree here, because all Members should know that it was Eritrea that was the first country to invite Sudan's President, al-Bashir, to visit Eritrea following an arrest warrant for his crimes against humanity in Darfur.

Now, with respect to the issue, I can think of numerous issues and times when Congress has had to push—and we'll take Sudan as an example, since the example I'm giving here is an example in which Eritrea has welcomed al-Bashir at a time when the international community is trying to get him to prevent the crimes that he has committed in Darfur. We have had to push to take more assertive actions. We did that with genocide in Sudan. And in my view, there is nothing wrong now, especially with respect to a state sponsorship of terrorism. I think that the Assistant Secretary of State for Africa's words speak for themselves. Again, this is Secretary Carson before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee last month, in which he said, We have clear evidence that Eritrea is supporting these extremist elements, including credible reports that they continue to supply weapons and munitions to terrorist elements.

I ask for an "aye" vote.

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. DEGETTE). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California will be postponed.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JACKSON of Illinois) having assumed the chair, Ms. DEGETTE, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2410) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2010 and 2011, to modernize the Foreign Service, and for other purposes had come to no resolution thereon.

PERMISSION TO CONSIDER AMENDMENT OUT OF ORDER

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during further consideration of H.R. 2410, pursuant to House Resolution 522, it may be in order to consider amendment No. 17 after amendment No. 27.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2010 AND 2011

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 522 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2410.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2410) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2010 and 2011, to modernize the Foreign Service, and for other purposes, with Ms. DEGETTE (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 15 by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) had been postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MR. MEEKS OF NEW YORK

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 16 printed in part C of House Report 111-143.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 16 offered by Mr. MEEKS of New York:

At the end of title X, insert the following:
**SEC. 10 . . . REPORT ON UNITED STATES-BRAZIL
JOINT ACTION PLAN TO ELIMINATE
RACIAL DISCRIMINATION.**

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and one year thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report detailing the status, efficacy, and coordination of the United States-Brazil Joint Action Plan to Eliminate Racial Discrimination, and a summary of short and long-term efforts to address the plight of in Afro Latinos and indigenous peoples in the Western Hemisphere through cooperation and bilateral efforts.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 522, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Madam Chair, I rise today with an important amendment to H.R. 2410, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011.

We here in the United States understand all too well that it takes more than just passing laws to ensure equal access to prosperity. It took decades of constant pressure and struggle to get the legal right to full participation of African Americans in our American democracy, yet we realize that our work is far from over in our great Nation.

Racial discrimination is a sobering reality, both here in the United States and in the rest of the world. We understand that we cannot throw stones from a glass house, but instead we must work in tandem with our neighbors to ensure that all citizens in our hemisphere are unfettered by discriminatory practices now and the vestiges of those practices of the past.

It is in our interest to work toward a more equal hemisphere. And we are all at risk if our citizens do not have full faith in the strength of democracy to provide upward mobility. The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., put it best when he said, Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

Afro-Latinos face a longstanding struggle against racial discrimination and a lack of opportunities. Afro-Latinos make up approximately 150 million of the region's 540 million total population and, along with women and indigenous populations, are among the poorest, most marginalized groups in the region.

People of African descent comprise a significant portion of the population in several Latin American countries and account for nearly 50 percent of the region's poor. For many Afro descendants, endemic poverty is exacerbated by isolation, exclusion, and racial discrimination.

In Brazil, Afro-Latinos represent 45 percent of the population but constitute 64 percent of the poor and 69 percent of the extremely poor. In Colombia, the plight of Afro-Colombians is perhaps harshest, as they are all too often caught in the crossfire of violent conflict.

Congress previously supported the United States-Brazil Joint Action Plan Against Racial Discrimination in House Resolution 1254 and called for both the United States and Brazil to promote equality and to continue to work toward eliminating racial discrimination. The joint action plan helps to facilitate the exchange of information on the best practices of anti-discrimination measures and development of ideas of how to bilaterally promote racial and ethnic equality.

With this amendment, we request that Secretary Clinton report on plans and efforts to address the plight of Afro-Latinos and indigenous peoples in the Western hemisphere. And we also request a report on the status of the U.S.-Brazil joint action plan so we can gain a greater understanding of how to